

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

Georgia Academy for the Blind

FOR THE YEAR 1873.

THE TWENTY-SECOND YEAR OF THE INSTITUTION.

Macon, Georgia, Dec. 29, 1873.

MACON, GA.:

J. W. BURKE & CO., PRINTERS AND BINDERS.
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TRUSTEES.

JAMES MERCER GREEN, PRESIDENT,
L. N. WHITTLE,
WASHINGTON POE,
HENRY L. JEWETT, TREASURER,
PETER SOLOMON,
VIRGIL POWERS,
C. A. NUTTING.

SECRETARY :

W. D. WILLIAMS.

OFFICERS OF THE ACADEMY.

PRINCIPAL:

W. D. WILLIAMS, A. M.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT:

W. D. WILLIAMS,
MISS HANNAH GUILLAN,
MISS A. E. ZACHARY, ASSISTANT,
MISS S. V. COLEY, “
J. G. F. HENDRIX, “

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC:

V. CZURDA,
J. T. COLEY, ASSISTANT,
MISS V. COLEY, “

DEPARTMENT OF HANDICRAFTS:

THE PRINCIPAL,

ASSISTED BY

J. G. F. HENDRIX, IN WORK SHOP FOR BOYS.
MISS A. E. ZACHARY, GIRLS' DEPARTMENT.

DOMESTIC DEPARTMENT:

W. D. WILLIAMS,
MISS H. GUILLAN,
CATHARINE MUNRO, ASSISTANT.

REPORT.

GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND,
MACON, December 27, 1873.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY JAMES M. SMITH,
Governor of Georgia :

SIR : The undersigned, by order of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Academy for the Blind, respectfully submit, as required by law, this, their report for the year 1873 :

Since the date of the last Annual Report, a vacancy has occurred in the Board by the resignation of Captain A. J. White, which has been filled by the election of Hon. C. A. Nutting.

The financial condition of the Institution will be seen by reference to the accompanying report of the Treasurer, from which the following condensed abstract is made :

Unexpended balance in Treasurer's hands, January 1, 1873.....	\$ 1,115 37
State appropriation for support, 1873.....	11,000 00
State appropriation for fence.....	3,000 00
	<hr/>
Total resources of 1873	\$15,115 37
Disbursements for support.....	\$11,200 00
Disbursements for fence, etc.....	3,000 00— 14,200 00
	<hr/>
Unexpended balance in Treasury.....	\$ 915 37

The accompanying Report of the Principal exhibits the actual expenditures of the year to be, for maintenance (to be seen in his classified list,) eleven thousand one hundred and eighty-three dollars and fifty-one cents, and for building the fence and other improvements, three thousand dollars, and that he has in hand, belonging to the former fund, one hundred and fifty-five dollars and eighty-one cents. The Principal is the general disbursing officer. His accounts are kept in books, subject to the inspection of the Board, and rendered in monthly written reports, accompanied with the necessary vouchers, all of which, after examination and approval, are filed. It will be seen from the Principal's Report that the number in the Academy has increased to such a degree that a larger appropriation will be required for its maintenance, and for the purposes named by him,

a further appropriation for repairs and improvements is needed. Believing that his estimates are not excessive, that the objects are proper, and that the money will be judiciously and economically expended, the Trustees approve and adopt his suggestions, and respectfully ask from the General Assembly of the State the appropriations mentioned, to-wit: Twelve thousand dollars for the support of pupils, officers' salaries, etc., and three thousand dollars for repairs and improvements.

There has been no change of officers during the past year. Although subject, under the regulations, to re-election annually, some of them have been in the service of the Institution almost from its beginning, others from later periods, and all of them many years. They have acquired experience in their work. The number of pupils is increasing, and growing usefulness is marking the progress of the Institution. The Trustees, therefore, commend it again to the confidence of the people of the State and the friends of the blind.

By order of the Board of Trustees.

JAMES MERCER GREEN, *President.*

HENRY L. JEWETT, *TREASURER,*

In account with Georgia Academy for the Blind.

FOR SUPPORT OF PUPILS, SALARIES, AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE.

1872.	Dr.	.
December 31, to balance as per former report.....		\$ 1,115 37
1873.		
March 1, to State appropriation, first quarter, through Principal...		\$ 2,750 00
April 17, to State " in part, 2d quarter, through Principal...		1,375 00
July 14, to State " balance, 2d quarter, through Principal..		1,375 00
October 13, to State " 3d quarter, through Principal.....		2,750 00
December 1, to State " 4th quarter, through Principal.....		2,750 00—\$12,115 37
1873.	Cr.	
January 16, by paid draft, James Mercer Green, President.....		\$ 1,000 00
May 12, by paid draft, James Mercer Green, President.....		2,750 00
May 12, by paid draft, James Mercer Green, President.....		1,375 00
July 17, by paid draft, James Mercer Green, President.....		1,375 00
October 13, by paid draft, James Mercer Green, President.....		2,750 00
December 8, by paid draft, James Mercer Green, President.....		1,950 00
By balance carried to new account.....		915 37—\$12,115 37

FOR SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR FENCE AND REPAIRS.

1873.	Dr.	
July 24, to State appropriation—special.....		\$ 3,000 00
1873.	Cr.	
July 17, by paid draft, James Mercer Green, President.....		\$ 3,000 00

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND,
MACON, December 25th, 1873.

Gentlemen—In submitting this, my Annual Report of the Domestic Management of the Georgia Academy for the Blind, for the year now about to close, I have in view the fact that the same is to be incorporated as a part of the Annual Report of the Institution, to be submitted to his Excellency, the Governor of the State, to be laid before the General Assembly as a public document, and thence to go forth as information to the people of Georgia, in regard to the management of one of the public charities supported by them.

As there is still occasional manifestation of misapprehension as to the purpose of the Institution, causing trouble and inconvenience oftentimes, I think it proper to reiterate the fact that it is not an *Asylum* in the sense of a home for the poor, aged, homeless and helpless blind, in which they can be supported and cared for, to the relief of kindred and friends, and of communities in which such unfortunate cases claiming compassion may occur. Nor is it an *Infirmary*, for the treatment of the numerous diseases to which the human eye is liable. It is essentially, and to all intents and purposes, an *Educational Institution*. Its incorporated name is the "Georgia Academy for the Blind." Its beneficiaries are only the incurably blind who are susceptible of profitable education. They are pupils—pupils of a school—as much as the matriculants are students of the University. They are received under school regulations and discipline, subject to the needful requirements about admission, duties, and discharge usually made and provided in all well organized institutions of learning.

With this preface, I report the number of pupils enrolled since the date of our last Annual Report to be forty-seven. Of these, three have been discharged, and two have died. The attendance, it will be seen, on comparison with our last and previous reports, is increasing.

HEALTH.

It is said that the blind generally have less power of vitality than others. Sometimes the constitutional infirmity which has either caused or resulted in blindness continues to operate through life, manifesting itself in general ill health, and engendering a condition favorable to the invasion of disease. Besides this, the sedentary life—the common necessity of blindness, and morbid propensities—an occasional result of the condition, and are to be taken into consideration in questions relating to the health of the blind. Perhaps from these two causes the recuperative forces of nature, and the art and the means of the physician to overcome attacks in either acute or chronic form, have diminished power. In regard to the health of our household, I regret that I cannot make as favorable mention as it has been my privilege to do in former reports. Early in the last Spring whooping cough prevailed extensively among the younger children. Two of these, while suffering very much with this disease, were attacked with pneumonia—Alexander Boddiford and Annie Stockwell—and, with the combination, in spite of medical skill and watchful nursing, they both died. Alexander was also the subject of other diseases in chronic form; Annie was but a child—not six years old—but of such rare grace and sweetness, of such tender promise, that her death will long be felt; as a sad event, in the hearts of all that knew her. Two others of our girls have been kept away from school much of the year, on account of ill health resulting from infirm constitution. Lastly, the small-pox—a mild case—has appeared among us. How this disease was contracted, is a mystery to all. The sufferer had not been out of the yard in six weeks, and no visitors on the premises whom we can suspect of having been with it, much less affected by it. The case was promptly isolated, and has entirely recovered, and the household having been protected by thorough vaccination, and all needful precautionary measures instituted, we trust there will be no further cases of this contagion.

THE SCHOOL.

Year after year we endeavor to make known to the public, by exhibition in our reports and in other publications, what the Academy is doing in its several departments. I believe that

there are very few departments of knowledge inaccessible to the blind, and we claim, at the risk of the charge of immodest pretension, that our pupils are being as well educated in literature and music as the other youths of the State, outside of the University and colleges.

The progress of the pupils this year, in the several departments, has been as good as in any former years. The classes in the literary departments are doing well, the studies ranging from the alphabet to philosophy and the higher mathematics. Perhaps, in consequence of favorable combination, our musical department is in advance of its usual status. The work department is kept up only for the purpose of training our male pupils in handicrafts, in the intervals when they are not engaged in the other departments—thus furnishing them with trades while accomplishing their general education.

When men who are too old to enter the school present themselves to learn trades, we receive them, and give them the opportunity and the necessary instruction in this department alone, and permit them to leave as soon as they have accomplished this purpose. I call attention to this feature as a commendable part of our general work. Young men and men in middle life, compelled to labor for daily sustenance, sometimes, from accident or disease, lose their sight. Their deprivation is a sad one. Their work seems to them to be gone, and direful prostration ensues. If such cases were promptly sent to the institution—promptly before the disastrous tendencies of such situation shall have had time to work their almost inevitable results on the hopes and character of the individual—it would be a most beneficent office. With the experience of years and observation in this and in training institutions for the blind, I say, most confidently, that an industrious blind man, with the requisite degree of self-reliance, and with a very ordinary capacity for manual skill, can acquire, in a few months, branches of handicraft, by the faithful prosecution of which, in any of the larger villages of the State, he can earn for himself, with his own work, a decent, creditable livelihood. He will need, for this purpose, the training of a few months as an apprentice; then an outfit costing about one hundred and twenty-five dollars; then a favorable village or city location, and lastly, industrious habits. Such a man, in such a situation and circumstances, can and ought to earn, with his own labor, from forty

to sixty dollars per month. As strong as my sympathies are for the blind, and forbearing as I ought to be, and am, to their faults and foibles, and knowing as I do the painful difficulties under which they suffer, yet, holding this knowledge of what they can and ought to do, it grieves me to see an able-bodied, healthy man, although he is blind, pursuing the life of a beggar, from door to door, or engaged in any sort of peddling or charlatanism which has the seeming of mendicancy, or yields no real good to those whom compassion leads to patronize him.

Our girls are trained to do plain sewing, knitting, and other female work, and their industry in these matters is useful to the house, and deserves praise,

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT FOR THE YEAR.

RECEIPTS.—1st. 1873—*Maintenance.*

Balance on hand from 1872.....	\$ 139 32
Orders of the Board during 1873.....	11,200 00—\$11,339 32

EXPENDITURES OF 1873 CLASSIFIED.

1. Salaries of officers.....	\$3,310 00
2. Postage and stationery	30 61
3. Carriage hire and travel.....	66 45
4. School expenses.....	71 29
5. Music.....	67 89
6. Pupils' clothing.....	359 10
7. House furnishing.....	513 04
8. Servant hire	894 61
9. Fuel and lights.....	1,171 12
10. Provisions.....	3,548 97
11. Special items.....	776 55
12. Repairs.....	235 23
13. Domestic department.....	140 00
14. Special instruction.....	88 65—\$11,183 51
Balance on hand.....	\$ 155 81

2d. IMPROVEMENT AND FENCE.

Receipts—Orders of the Board.....	\$3,000 00
Expenditures for material and work on houses and fence.....	3,000 00

ESTIMATES FOR 1874.

With much reluctance I ask an increase of the annual appropriation for the regular maintenance of the Academy. Since the sum of eleven thousand dollars became, as it were, the fixed amount for the support of the Institution, to be appropriated annually by the General Assembly, our numbers have increased; and now this increase has become so considerable, we must look to the increased wants thereby occasioned. I think, with the indications before me, we may certainly calculate upon an average attendance of forty-four pupils in the next year, and, with this number, I estimate that twelve thousand dollars will be required. This estimate will be a little short of two hundred and seventy-five dollars per pupil. Is this amount extravagant? Before me are the prospectuses of three reputable, well-managed schools of a private character, located in different sections of the State, sustained largely by boarding patronage. They propose to furnish, as we do, tuition in literature, in music, (instruments not so varied and numerous as in our school,) and in certain branches of female work, (not more difficult, or requiring greater cultivated skill, than that we do,) and they have furnished boarding, washing, lights and fuel for their pupils. Besides all the expenses common to them and us, their pupils do not require as much help, watching and care as ours, and we are obliged, moreover, to incur some traveling expenses, to furnish some clothing and much mending, all the books used, medicines and medical attention, with many other necessary and important items pertaining both to our home life and to the branches of our special work. The yearly sum of the fees, excluding from the list every item that has no corresponding charge in our list of expenses, in these three Institutions, is, as I calculate it, respectively, three hundred and forty, three hundred and eighty, and four hundred and twenty-five dollars per scholar. Yet they justly disclaim being expensive institutions. Their worthy officers are not getting rich, and their boarding houses (no doubt sometimes complained of) barely "make ends meet." Now it is granted that, in our peculiar arrangements, we have some economic advantages over these Institutions, but the comparison will show that our estimate is not exorbitant.

PROPERTY.

The annual insurance on the house and all small repairs have been kept up, as usual, by defraying the expenses thereof from the fund for maintenance. Now, it will be necessary to go beyond these usual incidents, and ask for a special appropriation for repairs and improvements for the ensuing year. The reasons for this are briefly these :

1. The recent tornado which visited this city did us much damage. The wings of our building were partially unroofed, and also the tin on the roof generally was much disturbed; the plastering of our upper story was much broken, and some of it thrown down, and the blinds and windows suffered some wreck. We have had the roof repaired and put in a temporarily safe condition, but we need the means to pay for the work done on it, and to complete the repairs which are required, by reason of this disaster.

2. The house has been in use about fourteen years, three of which as a military hospital, under no extraordinary care. It needs repainting throughout, and some other work done to it for the sake of its better preservation and the comfort of its inmates.

3. We use coal as fuel. As this has to be brought to us from the mountains, we deem it important, in order to make sure of a constant supply, and also for the sake of greater economy, to buy it in large quantities at a time. For the lack of a suitable house for its keeping, it has to be dumped in heaps in our yard. This is by no means a sightly addition to our premises, or a cleanly appearance, but chiefly, coal kept in this way is subject to waste and also to great deterioration from the slackening influences of air and water and weather generally. We need a good, substantial brick coal house.

4. The appropriation made by the Legislature at its last session of \$3,000, for the purpose of building a substantial fence on the College street side of our lot, has been exhausted, and found insufficient. The fence has been finished, except as to gates and painting, and the work is substantial and sightly, a great addition to the lot and grounds, and to the appearance of that street. The building of this fence rendered necessary the removal of our servant houses, and will require some changes in the arrangements of our main building. The servant houses

have been rebuilt and made tenantable, but not finished according to design. The other work is to be done.

For all these purposes \$3,000 will be required. I recommend, therefore, that this sum, for repairs and improvements, in addition to the \$12,000 for the yearly support of the Academy, be asked from the Legislature.

These details, briefly stated, have occupied so much space that I deem it not proper to add anything in the way of discussion on the interests of our specific work. We are endeavoring to do what we can to educate the blind, and to "train them up in the way they should go," looking to the present well-being of our children, and endeavoring to forecast advantages for them in the future, in a sort of human way, trusting alone to the God of Providence for sure guidance and safe issues.

Respectfully submitted,

W. D. WILLIAMS, *Principal*

LIST OF PUPILS OF 1873.

MALES.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
ASTIN, CHARLES	Campbell County.
BAILEY, WILLIAM T.....	Gordon County.
BARNES, JOSEPHUS.....	Bibb County.
BODDIFORD, ALEXANDER	Decatur County.
BURKS, JOHN J.....	Henry County.
COLEY, J. T.....	Stewart County.
COLEY, S. A. W.....	Stewart County.
GIBSON, JAMES S.....	Twiggs County.
HARP, JOHN E.....	Brooks County.
HENDRIX, J. G. F.....	Coweta County.
HODNETT, HOPE.....	Meriwether County.
NORTH CUT, W. J.....	Campbell County.
PEACOCK, LEWIS O.....	Wilkinson County.
PEACOCK, WILLIAM LEROY.....	Wilkinson County.
RAGAN, CHARLES.....	Terrell County.
SANDERS, WILLIAM.....	Quitman County.
SINGLETON, JAMES.....	Harris County.
STONE, GEORGE W.....	Newton County.
WINKLES, ANDREW J.....	Heard County.
WOFFORD, JACOB.....	Fulton County.

Total Males, 20.

FEMALES.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
BARBEE, MISSOURI	Pike County.
BARFIELD, ASENATH.....	Macon County.
BEAMAN, PAULINE.....	Bartow County.
BEDGOOD, E. J.....	Wilkinson County.
COLLINS, MINNA.....	Alabama.
COLEY, NANNIE.....	Stewart County.
COLEY, SUSAN V.....	Stewart County.
COUCH, MATTIE.....	Jackson County.
EDWARDS, ELLA	Troup County.
ESTES, SERENA E.....	Paulding County.
KING, ALICE.....	Fulton County.
LANE, SARAH FRANCES.....	Monroe County.
MAPP, LIZZIE.....	Fulton County.
MCGUIRE, KITTY.....	Fulton County.
MCINVALE, FANNY.....	Crawford County.
PERRY, M. A.....	Macon County.
PRICE, ALICE.....	Randolph County.
REED, CARRIE.....	Bartow County.
REED, SUSAN E.....	Bartow County.
ROQUEMORE, IDA.....	Bibb County.
STEPHENS, MAMIE E	Brooks County.
STOCKWELL, ANNIE.....	Glynn County.
TAYLOR, MARY A.....	Harris County.
THACKER, SARAH M.....	Bartow County.
TISON, MARTHA ELIZABETH.....	Washington County.
WILLIAMS, LULA.....	Screven County.
WILSON, VIRGINIA.....	Gordon County.
Total Females, 27.	

ADVERTISEMENT.

This is an Institution, as its name implies, for the education of the blind. It comprises three departments.

I. The School—In which blind children and youths are instructed in all the branches of English taught in the common schools of the country.

II. Department of Music—In which Vocal and Instrumental Music is taught in connection with the following instruments: Piano, Organ, Guitar, Violin and Flute.

III. The Department of Handicrafts—In which the blind are trained to industrial work, and taught trades by which they can earn a livelihood for themselves.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION.

The Academy receives into its School Department such youths, male or female, as are hopelessly blind, or incurably blind, to that degree which prevents education in the ordinary method, between the ages of eight and twenty years, of sound mind and free from bodily disease, and of good moral character and habits.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

The indigent of this State are taken without charge for board and tuition, being supported upon State appropriation. To those able to contribute, wholly or in part, towards their education, the charge will be graduated from the maximum of \$250 00 to such sum as their means will authorize them to pay. All are expected to come provided with a supply of good, comfortable clothing, to be replenished by their friends, or means provided therefor, from time to time, as it becomes necessary. Blind men, not too old to learn a trade, will be received as apprentices in the Department of Handicrafts on the same terms as pupils are received into the School. If a pupil or apprentice shall, after a fair trial, prove incompetent for useful instruction, or disobedient to the wholesome regulations of the Academy, or in anywise an unfit or improper subject for retention in the Institution, he or she will be discharged.

The annual school term begins September 1st and ends June 30th. Pupils admitted at any time.

All persons are requested to send to the Principal the names and addresses of blind children known to them, with a statement of their circumstances, so as to enable him to form some opinion as to their fitness for admission into the Institution, and to assist in putting him in communication with their friends. The information sought may be conveniently given in simple answers to the following questions:

1. Name and age of the blind person?
2. Name of parents or guardians, with post-office address?
3. Blindness, whether total or partial?
4. Cause of blindness, if known?
5. Has the blindness been examined by physicians and pronounced incurable?
6. Is the person of sound mind, and susceptible of intellectual culture?
7. Also of good character and habits?
8. Also free from disease that will interfere with instruction, or income to the household?
9. What sum can be paid for board and tuition; also for clothing?

Address

W. D. WILLIAMS, *Principal*,
Macon, Georgia.

CARD OF THANKS.

The thanks of the officers and pupils of the Georgia Academy for the Blind are due and are hereby tendered to the officers of the following railroads of the State for free passes, on necessary occasions, over their respective lines—a most important privilege and aid toward the benevolent work of the Institution—viz:

Macon and Western, Southwestern, Central, Georgia, Macon and Brunswick, Atlanta and West-Point, Western and Atlantic.

Also, the thanks of the same are due, and are hereby tendered, to the proprietors and editors of the following newspapers, for sending their issues, gratuitously, to the Institution—thereby contributing means of information as to the current news and other important matters; and also to all other papers that have given such notice of the Institution and its work as was calculated to bring its object and advantages before the blind youth of the State:

The Telegraph and Messenger (daily,) of Macon; The Federal Union and Recorder (weekly,) of Milledgeville; The Honston Home Journal (weekly,) of Perry; The Macon Enterprise (daily,) of Macon; The Christian Index (weekly,) of Atlanta; The Southern Christian Advocate (weekly,) of Macon; The Central City (weekly,) of Albany; The Tri-Weekly Courier, of Rome; The Reporter (weekly,) of LaGrange; The Vindicator (weekly,) of Greenville; The Republican, of Americus; Youth's Companion, Boston.

